

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 25, 37 and 42 are currently being amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter is being added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 25, 27-29, 37, 39-40, 42-43 and 48-50 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25, 27-29, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,157 to Yoneda et al. ("Yoneda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127 to Wood et al. ("Wood"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 25, as amended, recites:

An image forming apparatus comprising:

a receiving section that receives a printing job including a trial printing command and an image data from an external PC;

a control panel including a first touch screen menu including a trial printing button configured to, when user selected, initiate a trial preceding print of image data, and a printing button configured to, when selected by a user, initiate printing of all pages of the image data in response to the selection of the printing button;

a printer that performs the trial preceding print in response to the trial printing command received from the external PC via communication lines and the selection of the trial printing button, and performs the printing of all pages of the image data being received from the PC; and

a controller that sets a desired specification including print density information according to operation of the control panel after the printer

performs the trial preceding print, and *deletes the image data and the printing job after the printing of all pages;*

wherein the printer is configured to print the image data according to the desired specification set by the controller.

The references applied in the rejection of the claims fail to disclose the above italicized features of claim 25, or their resultant advantages.

Independent claim 25, as recited above, is directed to an image forming apparatus having a receiving section, such as in one non-limiting embodiment, the network interface 17 as shown in FIG. 2 of the present application. The receiving section receives “a printing job including a trial printing command and an image data” from an external PC. The image apparatus, in one non-limiting example, allows a user to press a the trial print button 253 on a control panel 20a (See FIGs. 14-19 of the present application) when “the print job including a trial printing command and an image data” is received from the receiving section, and the image forming apparatus starts the trial printing immediately. Furthermore, in the claim 25 apparatus, after all of the pages have been printed, the image data and printing job are deleted.

In contrast to the apparatus of claim 25, Yoneda does not perform a trial printing based on both instructions of the printing job from an external PC and additionally by a user pressing a printing button. Further in contrast to claim 25, Yoneda does not delete the printing job and image data after the image is formed.

Wood fails to cure the deficiencies of Yoneda, at least in that Wood fails to suggest that Yoneda should be modified to perform trial printing immediately in response to both instructions of the printing job from an external PC and additionally by a user pressing a printing button. Wood merely discloses a system where copies may be printed based on instructions from a remote user (See col. 2, lines 5-17 cited by the Patent Office). At best, if Yoneda were modified to include printing based on a remote command from a user, the combination would include printing based on a remote command, or printing based on a command based on a selection from the conditional display panel 117 (See FIG. 12) of Yoneda. There is no suggestion, based on Yoneda and Wood, of a system where trial printing is performed immediately in response to both instructions of the printing job from an external

PC and additionally by a user pressing a printing button. Even if combined, Yoneda and Wood do not suggest all the features of claim 25.

Yoneda and Wood also fail to disclose or suggest the advantages of the apparatus of claim 25, where the printer performs the trial preceding print in response to the trial printing command received via the receiving section, from the external PC along with the image data, and the selection of the trial printing button, and the controller deletes the image data and the printing job after the printing of all pages. These features allow a user to perform the trial printing without fail based on a command from the external PC and selecting the trial printing button, and to judge the desired printing, and further prevents wasting paper due to undesirable printing. Yoneda and Wood fail to realize these advantages.

Independent claims 37 and 42 have features corresponding to those discussed above with respect to claim 25 in the context of process claims, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith,

Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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